

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-16 are pending in the application, and that Claims 1-16 are rejected. By this amendment, Claims 1-16 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 35-55 have been added. Thus, Claims 35-55 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1 and 3-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yoshigai et al. (US Patent No. 6,191,045) and Mui et al. (US Patent No. 6,037,265). Claims 1 and 3-16 have been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yoshigai et al. (US Patent No. 6,191,045) and Mui et al. (US Patent No. 6,037,265) in view of Kugimiya et al (US Patent No. 6,277,763). Claim 2 has been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully contends that new Claims 35-55 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that the present application is in

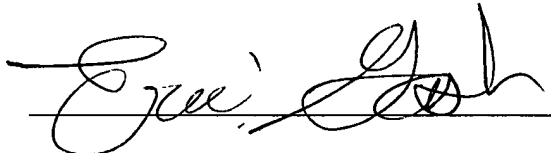
Appl. No. 09/805,273
Amdt. Dated March 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2003

condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Gash", written over a horizontal line.

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